Voluntary Product Standard

PS 67-76

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/National Bureau of Standards

MARKING OF GOLD FILLED AND ROLLED GOLD PLATE ARTICLES OTHER THAN WATCHCASES

ANSI/VPS PS 67-76

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[1] Headquarters and Laboratories at Gaithersburg, Maryland, unless otherwise noted; mailing address Washington, D.C. 20234.

[2] Located at Boulder, Colorado 80302.

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Voluntary Product Standard

PS 67-76

Marking of Gold Filled and Rolled Gold Plate Articles Other than Watchcases

Approved by the American National Standards Institute on April 18, 1977, as American National Standard ANSI/ VPS PS 67-76

Abstract

This Voluntary Product Standard covers the marking of gold filled and rolled gold plate articles other than watchcases, as herein defined, offered for sale in the United States of America. Requirements include application of quality marks, "Rolled Gold filled," "Gold Overlay," "Gold Plate," and/or "Rolled Gold Plate" to articles made of other metals. Definitions of trade terms used and methods for identifying products that comply with the standard are included.

Key words: Jewelry, marking of; "Gold Filled," marking of; "Gold Overlay," marking of; "Gold Plate," marking of; "Rolled Gold Plate," marking of.

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VOLUNTARY PRODUCT STANDARDS

Voluntary Product Standards are developed under procedures published by the Department of Commerce in Part 10, Title 15, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose of the standards is to establish nationally recognized requirements for products, and to provide all concerned interests with a basis for common understanding of the characteristics of the products. The National Bureau of Standards administers the *Voluntary Product Standards* program as a supplement to the activities of the private sector standardizing organizations.

Establishment of a VOLUNTARY PRODUCT STANDARD

The role of the National Bureau of Standards in the establishment of a Voluntary Product Standard is to (1) act as an unbiased coordinator in the development of the standard, (2) provide editorial assistance in the preparation of the standard, (3) supply such assistance and review as is required to assure the technical soundness of the standard, (4) seek satisfactory adjustment of valid points of disagreement, (5) determine the compliance with the criteria of the Department's procedures, (6) provide secretarial functions for each committee appointed under the Department's procedures, and (7) publish the standard as a public document.

Producers, distributors, users, consumers, and other interested groups contribute to the establishment of a *Voluntary Product Standard* by (1) initiating and participating in the development of the standard, (2) providing technical or other related counsel as appropriate relating to the standard, (3) promoting the use of and support for the standard, and (4) assisting in keeping the standard current with respect to advancing technology and marketing practices.

Use of a VOLUNTARY PRODUCT STANDARD

The use of a *Voluntary Product Standard* is voluntary; the National Bureau of Standards has no regulatory power in the enforcement of the provisions of the standards. However, since the standards represent a consensus of all interested groups, their provisions are likely to become established as trade customs. In addition, when a standard is made a part of a legal document, such as a sales contract or code, compliance with the standard is enforceable.

The benefits derived from *Voluntary Product Standards* are in direct proportion to their general recognition and actual use. Producers and distributors whose products meet the requirements of a *Voluntary Product Standard* may refer to the standard in advertising and on labels to promote greater public understanding of or confidence in their products. Purchasers may order products conforming to the requirements of the standards.

For copies of the *Voluntary Product Standards* procedures or for more information concerning the development and use of these standards you may write to: Standards Development Services Section, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234.

Contents

Voluntary Product Standard PS 67-76
Supersedes Commercial Standard CS 47-34

Marking of Gold Filled and Rolled Gold Plate Articles Other Than Watchcases

Effective April 12, 1976 (See section 5.)

(This Standard, which was initiated by the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, has been developed under the *Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards* of the U.S. Department of Commerce as a revalidation of CS 47-34, *Marking of Gold Filled and Rolled Gold Plate Articles Other than Watchcases.* See Section 6, *History of Project,* for further information.)

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Voluntary Product Standard is to establish nationally recognized marking requirements for gold filled and rolled gold plate articles other than watchcases and to provide producers, distributors, and users with a basis for common understanding of the characteristics of this product.

2. SCOPE

This Voluntary Product Standard covers the marking of gold filled and rolled gold plate articles other than watchcases,[1] as herein defined, offered for sale in the United States of America. Definitions of trade terms used and methods for identifying products that comply with the Standard are included.

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1. General - Products represented as complying with this Voluntary Product Standard shall meet all of the requirements specified herein.

3.2. Application of quality marks - The quality mark "Gold Filled," "Gold Overlay," "Gold Plate," and/or "Rolled Gold Plate" shall refer to articles made of base metal, upon one or more sides or surfaces of which base metal there is affixed by soldering, brazing, welding, or other mechanical means, a sheet or sheets or shell of karat gold, produced by alloying fine gold with other metals, said sheet or sheets or shell of gold being rolled, drawn, or pressed to the marked weight ratio before uniting with the base metal.

3.2.1. Weight - Qualities for gold filled, gold overlay, gold plate, and rolled gold plate articles other than watchcases shall be designated by and have applied thereto marks which state in terms of fractions and karats the correct proportion of the weight of the alloyed gold to the weight of the entire metal in such articles and the actual karat fineness of the entire gold covering, thus "1/10 12K Gold Filled," or "1/30 10K Rolled Gold Plate," as the case may be. For example, "1/10 12K Gold Filled" means that the article consists of base metal covered on one or more surfaces with a gold alloy of 12 karat fineness throughout the gold covering, the said covering of gold alloy comprising 1/10 part by weight of the metal in the entire article, exclusive of the exemptions as noted in 3.4 and 3.4.1.

3.2.2. Fraction - The fraction shall precede the fineness designation in every case, and the denominator of said fraction shall always be a multiple of five, unless specified to the contrary by law or government regulation.

3.2.3. Fineness - No article having a gold coating of less than 10K fineness shall have applied to it any quality mark. No article having an alloyed gold content of less than 1/20 shall be marked "Gold Filled." Articles manufactured in accordance with the definitions of 3.2 if marked "Rolled Gold Plate," shall be preceded by the fraction and the fineness designation, as specified in 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.

3.3. Tolerance - The actual gold content of an article shall be not less than the gold content indicated by the quality marks by more than 10 percent.

3.4. Exemptions - Exemptions recognized in the jewelry trade and not to be considered in any assay for quality include joints, catches, screws, pin stems, pins of scarf pins, hat pins, etc., field pieces and bezels for lockets, posts and separable backs of lapel buttons, springs, and metallic parts completely and permanently encased in a nonmetallic covering. Field pieces of lockets are those inner portions used as frames between the inside edges of the locket and the spaces for holding pictures. Bezels are the separable inner metal rings used to hold the pictures in place.

3.4.1. Optical exemptions - Exemptions recog-

[1] Definitions for watchcases are governed by the *Guides for the Watch Industry* promulgated by the Federal Trade Commission as amended August 18, 1970, since watchcases require a greater degree of metal content due to friction caused by the wrist.

nized in the optical trade and not to be considered in any assay for quality shall include screws, dowels, cores and/or inner windings of comfort cable temples, metal parts when completely and permanently encased with zylonite or any equivalent plastic material, and, for oxfords, the handle and catch.

3.5. Trademark - Any gold-covered article herein defined having applied thereto a quality mark, shall also have applied thereto and immediately adjacent to such quality mark, and equally visible, legible, clear, and distinct therewith, the name or a trademark duly applied for or registered under the laws of the United States, of the manufacturer or seller of such article or the trade name of the manufacturer or seller. Initials shall not be used in lieu of a name unless registered as a trademark as above provided.

3.6. Class, pattern, type, or style mark - If a gold-covered article herein defined has applied to it the name or a trademark duly applied for or registered under the laws of the United States, of the manufacturer or seller of such article, and a quality mark conforming to the requirements of this standard, it may also have applied to it numerals or other indicia to identify the class, pattern, type, or style of the article, provided such numerals are not incorporated with the quality mark and are not placed or arranged so as to mislead or deceive.

4. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the following definitions shall apply:

Apply or Applied - Apply or applied includes any method or means of application or attachment to, or of use on, or in conjunction with, or in relation to an article, whether such application, attachment, or use is to, on, by, in or with (1) the article itself, (2) anything attached to the article, (3) anything to which the article is attached, (4) anything in, or on, which the article is, or (5) any bill, invoice, order, statement, letter, advertisement, or anything so used or placed as to lead to a reasonable belief that it refers to the article in question.

Gold - Gold includes any alloy of the element gold of not less than 10 karat fineness. "Karat Gold" means an alloy of the element gold of not less than 10 karat fineness.

Mark - Mark means any letter, figure, numeral, symbol, sign, device, or any combinations thereof.

Quality mark - Quality mark means any mark indicating an article is composed of gold, and/or indicating the quality, fineness, quantity, weight, thickness, proportion, or kind of gold in an article.

Karat - A karat is 1/24 part by weight of the metallic element gold in an article. For example, "10 Kt" or "10 Karat Gold" means that the metallic element gold contained in the article constitutes 10/24 by weight of the entire article.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IDENTIFICATION

The effective date of this Standard is April 12, 1976. As of the effective date, reference to PS 67-76, may be made in contracts, codes, advertising, invoices, product labels, and the like, but no product may be advertised or represented in any manner which would imply or tend to imply approval or endorsement of that product by the National Bureau of Standards, the Department of Commerce, or by the Federal Government.

The following statements are suggested for use in representing products as conforming to all requirements of this Standard:

(1) "This article conforms to all requirements established in Voluntary Product Standard PS 67-76, developed and published in accordance with the U.S. Department of Commerce *Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards.* Full responsibility for the conformance of this product to the standard is assumed by (name and address of producer or distributor)."

(2) "Conforms to PS 67-76, (Name and address of producer or distributor)."

6. HISTORY OF PROJECT

In 1933 Commercial Standard CS 47-34, *Marking of Gold Filled and Rolled Gold Plate Articles Other Than Watchcases*, was developed at the request of the New England Manufacturing Jewelers' and Silversmiths' Association (renamed Manufacturing Jewelers and Silversmiths of America, Inc.), supported by the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Inc., and was published in January 1934.

In December 1974 the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Inc., the recognized trade association for the jewelry industry, requested that the National Bureau of Standards initiate a revalidation of CS 47-34 under the *Procedures for the Development of*

Voluntary Product Standards. Appointments were made to the Standing Committee, and the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Inc., recommendation was forwarded to them in July 1975 for review. The Standing Committee indicated the standard should be revalidated and in December 1975 they were asked to vote on the appropriateness of the proposal. In February 1976 all members of the Standing Committee approved the proposal to revalidate CS 47-34.

The new edition of the standard was designated Voluntary Product Standard PS 67-76, *Marking of Gold Filled and Rolled Gold Plate Articles Other Than Watchcases*, and became effective on April 12, 1976.

Technical Standards Coordinator:

C. W. Devereux
Standards Development Services Section
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

7. STANDING COMMITTEE

A Standing Committee has been appointed to assist in keeping this Voluntary Product Standard up to date. The names of the members of the committee are available from the Standards Development Services Section, Washington, D.C. 20234, which serves as the secretariat of the committee.

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NOTE: At present the principal publication outlet for these data is the Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data (JPCRD) published quarterly for NBS by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Institute of Physics (AIP). Subscriptions, reprints, and supplements available from ACS, 1155 Sixteenth St. N.W., Wash. D. C. 20056.

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Voluntary Product Standards—Developed under procedures published by the Department of Commerce in Part 10, Title 15, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The purpose of the standards is to establish nationally recognized requirements for products, and to provide all concerned interests with a basis for common understanding of the characteristics of the products. NBS administers this program as a supplement to the activities of the private sector standardizing organizations.

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